

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 44 of 1880.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th October 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	29th October 1880.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	29th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
14	"Medinī"	Midnapore	250	
15	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
17	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	25th ditto.
18	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
19	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	
20	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	24th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	25th ditto.
22	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	25th ditto.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	23rd ditto.
24	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
25	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
26	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	25th to 28th October 1880.
27	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	7th to 9th & 25th to 30th October 1880.
28	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	27th to 30th October 1880.
29	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	25th to 27th ditto.
30	"Prabhātī"	Ditto	.....	26th to 30th ditto.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
32	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	
33	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	21st & 28th October 1880.
34	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
35	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	22nd October 1880.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....	22nd ditto.

POLITICAL.

SOM PRAKASH,
October 25th, 1880.

THE following observations are extracted from the *Som Prakash* of the 25th October:—The arguments employed

The occupation of Candahar.

by the members of the Patriotic Association, who recently waited in deputation on the Secretary of State for the purpose of convincing him of the desirability of permanently annexing Candahar, were such as could only have been dictated by intense selfishness. These so-called patriots dwelt on the advantages that would accrue to commerce if their proposal was adopted. It is, however, not clear whether they would go so far as to maintain that no country could be regarded as offering facilities of commerce to the British trader, until it was annexed to the British territories. They do not, it would seem, bestow any thought on such matters as the feelings of the people of Candahar, or the justice of the proposals they advocate. The question, however, that is to be asked is, whether the Liberal party is likely to take their advice and permanently retain Candahar. Despite the meaning of the word "Liberal," the conduct of the present Ministry towards Turkey in the matter of Dulcigno is far from liberal. While they are pursuing a policy of intimidation as regards Turkey, they do not seem to be anxious to bring to an end the unjust war which the attempt to disarm the Basutos has produced at the Cape. The action of the present Cabinet, in reference to these two matters, might warrant the assumption that Government would not be averse to the plan of an annexation of Candahar, provided the measure ensured advantages. If the province, however, did not yield revenue sufficient to meet the cost of its administration, it is doubtful whether it would be retained. Enquiries, it would seem, are being made in this direction. The fact would appear to be that if the present Ministry were really liberal, the retirement from Candahar would have been an accomplished fact long ago. In conclusion, the Editor strongly deprecates the proposal of annexation, which, if carried out, will not only lay the Government open to a charge of breach of faith, but will occasion a loss of men and financial embarrassments of the greatest magnitude to the Indian Empire.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
October 26th, 1880.

2. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 26th October, in noticing the Chota Oodeypore case, expresses a hope that His Excellency the Viceroy will pass proper orders

The Chota Oodeypore case.

upon it.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
October 25th, 1880.

3. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 25th October, urges a speedy retirement from Afghanistan before the outbreak of any fresh troubles makes it again necessary

Candahar.

for the British troops to overrun the country.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SADHARANI,
October 24th, 1880.

4. We give below the substance of an article in the *Sādhāranī*, of the 24th October, on the dieting of the prisoners in the jails of this country:—While hard

Prisoners in the jails kept on half rations.

work is exacted from the prisoners, they are not allowed a sufficient quantity of food. It is not, of course, contended that they should be served with all sorts of dainty food; the rules of discipline must necessarily be somewhat stringent in their character in order that the object for which jails have been established might be attained. It is nevertheless undesirable that the convicts should be put upon half rations, and thus subjected to a process of gradual starvation. They are required to do a certain amount of task-work every day, and the least carelessness exposes them to merciless flogging. As it is, their condition is sufficiently pitiable and humiliating, and an insufficiency of food only

aggravates their misery. This cruel treatment of the prisoners in the jails has produced consequences equally injurious to the morality of native society and the prestige of Government. It has made the people of this country indifferent to the necessity of helping the police in the matter of detecting offenders and placing them on their trial. Thus a sort of sympathy has come to be felt towards an offender. The knowledge that, if detected and convicted, he would have to suffer all the rigors of the jail, acts as a powerful incentive to the suppression of all evidence against an offender. Government is in a manner responsible for the existence of this misplaced sympathy. The whole subject demands careful consideration, and Government cannot too soon issue orders for the supply of a sufficient quantity of food to the inmates of the jails.

SADHARANI,
October 24th, 1880.

The khas mehals in the Midnapore district.

5. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper :—The khas mehals in Midnapore, from the tenantry of which Government is now demanding enhanced rents, and is making costly efforts to attain its object, contain altogether 24 pergunnahs, comprising an area of 2,000 square miles. So able has been the State management in these mehals that they cannot even boast of the existence of a single road or embankment. Not to speak of facilities of communication between one village and another, during the rains the inhabitants cannot so much as repair from one house to another, unless in a boat, or by wading through water. Their sufferings have become almost unendurable in consequence of their inability to move about and procure necessary provisions;—and this while during the last four years not less than a hundred thousand rupees have been levied in these pergunnahs in the shape of road cess, and levied too from the zemindars after the seizure of their elephants, camels, and horses, including nazirs' fees and peon fees, till the sum realized had reached ten times the amount originally demanded. Zemindars, tenants, and lakhirajdars have been ground to the dust to pay the money. Add to this the hardship occasioned through the carelessness of the employés in the Road Cess Office, which has resulted in not a few cases in the realization of the cess from persons who had already paid it once. There have been again instances in which thrice the amount of the cess justly due has been levied by mistake. There is no remissness shown in the work of collection; no matter whether an assessee has to sell his cattle, or other property, in order that he may be able to pay the cess, it is must be paid. But during these four years not one *cowrie* has been expended for the purpose for which the cess has been ostensibly levied. Formerly, embankments were every year constructed in these mehals at the expense of the zemindars for the protection of the crops from inundation; and the least remissness on their part would be viewed with great displeasure by the authorities. All this, however, has changed since the estates came under the direct management of Government. Not a single embankment has been constructed during this period, and the result has been the annual destruction of the crops in many villages by inundation. Government, however, manifests the greatest indifference to the condition of the tenantry. It is busy in other directions, and has spent some lakhs of rupees in making a new survey of the lands in these khas mehals. As a result of the absence of local communications in these parts, it may be noticed that the model school established at Basudebpore by the late Rajah Gajendra Narayan Roy Bahadur has not proved a success. For six months in the year the boys are obliged to stay at home.

6. The same paper notices a fearful outbreak of malarious fever in Krishnagur, Meherpore, and adjacent localities, where there is hardly a single household of which the members are not laid up with the disease.

Outbreak of malarious fever in Krishnagur.

SADHARANI.

SOM PRAKASH,
October 25th, 1880.

7. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 25th October, directs the attention of Government to the inconvenience caused to the third-class passengers on the East Indian Railway by the overcrowding of trains. The Railway officials do not bestow the least care on the comforts of these passengers, and thrust as many men as they can into a carriage. The plea of insufficient accommodation in a train, which might be urged, would not stand if we consider that the number of carriages might be increased to the necessary extent. The subject should receive the consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy.

SOM PRAKASH.

8. The means determined upon by Government, says the same paper, for bringing about a satisfactory solution of the rent question, does not appear to be sound. It has, in the draft Rent Bill, provided for the accrual of the right of occupancy after a possession of twelve, or, in some cases, of five years. This, however, would seem to take for granted that the landlords will not prove obstructive—a supposition which is most gratuitous. The landlords in Bengal are at the present time an educated class of men, who keep themselves acquainted with the course of legislation; and it is exceedingly probable that their efforts will now be directed to the prevention of the growth of occupancy rights by evicting all tenants before they will have acquired them by a possession of twelve years. This will never succeed in bringing difficulties to an end. Government is in fact trying a policy of compromise, which can never be successful. It would be far better to clearly lay down some authoritative ruling on this point. If the landlord is to be the absolute owner of the land, let it be declared once for all that the ryot, however long may be his possession, shall never acquire any rights thereto. If, on the contrary, Government desires to confer on the tenant some share in the proprietary interest in the land, a rent-rate, which is but a measure of the rights of the parties, should be fixed for all time, based on the existing rents as paid for each field under cultivation. In making this suggestion, it is borne in mind that occasionally there may be a temporary rise in the prices of produce when the ryot may derive increased profits; but as this is counterbalanced by the losses to which he is constantly subject, owing to risks of seasons and other causes, while the rent, as a permanent charge, must always be paid with regularity, there does not appear to be any necessity for ruling that the zemindar should have a share of the increased produce.

SOM PRAKASH.

9. The same paper notices, with exceeding satisfaction, that the attention of the present Director-General of the Post Offices has been directed to the necessity of publishing the Rules of the Department in the vernaculars of the country, and distributing copies thereof among the native public. He has also proposed that the peons should henceforth be required to pass an examination in these Rules. Other reforms also have been suggested, to some of which exception is taken in the article under notice. The Editor has some apprehension that the peons, an uneducated and unscrupulous class of men as they are, are likely to abuse their position if they are empowered to register letters for transmission by post. It is suggested that copies of the Rules may be distributed with advantage among the village guru mahashayas, who are usually entrusted by villagers with the work of carrying on their correspondence.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
October 25th, 1880.

10. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 25th October, contains an article on the outstill system, and increase of the outstill system in Bengal to the introduction of which is attributed a fearful increase of drunkenness among the people. In the course of the article the Editor refers to the Government Resolution on Mr. Barlow's

report of the Bhagulpore Division, and to the prevalence of drinking among the Sonthals. [The observations made in the article are similar to those contained in two articles on the outstill system in Bengal in a recent number of the *Friend of India*.]

11. The same paper adverts to the high-handed manner in which license-tax assessments are being conducted in many districts. In Maldah certain

The license-tax.

persons, exempted from the payment of this tax by the assessors, have been re-assessed by the Collector. Incomes are being assessed at sums far in excess of what they really are. The assessors are generally semi-educated men, not particularly strong in their moral convictions, and the pressure put on them by their official superiors to show high assessments only makes the matter worse. The appeals produce but little good. The day of hearing is repeatedly postponed, and when the appeal is actually taken up, the original assessment is usually confirmed.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
October 25th, 1880.

12. The same paper points out the injurious consequences which result from the practice which obtains among many Mahomedan communities of burying their dead within the precincts of their dwelling-houses. The Mahomedan burial-grounds in the southern suburbs of Calcutta are situate in quarters thickly populated; and it behoves the authorities to consider whether these grounds should any longer be allowed to be used by the Mahomedans for burying their dead.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

13. The same paper remarks that the extension of the procedure laid down in Act X of 1877 to the Presidency Small Cause Courts will occasion serious difficulties. The Small Cause Court is not a "Court of Record," and therein lies its popularity. Now, if suitors are henceforth to be required to file documents and other records, many will altogether cease to resort to the Small Cause Court. It will again be necessary for a plaintiff to sign and verify a plaint. Now there are not a few mahajuns who carry on business in town through their agents, and they will practically find it impossible to sue. Documents filed may be lost. It would therefore be well to require that the plaint should be signed by the plaintiff or his agent, and drawn up and filed by a pleader. It should further be provided that decrees not executed, but barred by limitation, might be again sued upon. In the last place, the Small Cause Court should be empowered to direct the sale of immovable property instead of decree-holders being put to the necessity of paying all the expenses of instituting a suit in the High Court for the purpose.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

14. Referring to the removal from the bench of Mr. Nana Morojee of Bombay, the same paper expresses its regret that Government, while acknowledging his good services, should have inflicted on him a punishment so disproportionate to his trivial offence. Still there would be but little room for dissatisfaction were all defaulting officers but treated with an equal degree of severity. What occasions the regret is that, while many European officers, more deserving of blame than Mr. Morojee, are allowed to escape with impunity, he has been singled out for punishment.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

15. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that, although no notice of the introduction of the Arms Act into Jamalpore and Monghyr was given to the illiterate inhabitants in a proper manner, the local authorities have seized all weapons found in their possession, inflicted fines upon the owners, and sold the weapons by public auction. This is regarded as a great hardship.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

The Arms Act in Monghyr and Jamalpore.

SANACHAR,
October 25th, 1880.

16. The *Sahachar*, of the 25th October, directs the attention of Government to an increase of drunkenness, and of the evils consequent thereupon, by the introduction of the outstill system into Bengal. It is high time the authorities took steps to save the lower classes of natives from being altogether ruined by intemperance.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 30th October 1880.